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SANDY URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1947

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1947

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions in your district for the year 1947.

From the vital statistics it will be observed that the death rate per 1000 population is considerably higher than for England and Wales. It will also be observed from the table of causes of death that, out of 53 deaths from all causes, 13 were due to cancer and 24 from diseases of the heart and circulatory system. As these diseases generally occur in later life, the question may be asked, in view of the number of deaths from these causes, whether the proportion of people of over middle life to the total population of the district is greater than for the country as a whole. Unfortunately there are no figures available to substantiate this, but, should it be so, it would offer some explanation of the higher death rate.

The outbreak of paratyphoid fever is discussed in the report and needs no reference here.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. H. A. Usher, Clerk to the Council, and to Mr. Settle your Sanitary Inspector for their loyal co-operation and assistance at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. HARVEY

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	4362
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population	...	...	...	...	3492
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1947	...	...	...	...	1082
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£17836
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£68 18s. 9d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	32	28	60
Illegitimate	...	...	5	—	5
			—	—	—
			37	28	65
Birth Rate per 1000 civilian population				...	18.6
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...			...	20.5

Still Births

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	1	—	1
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
			1	—	1
Still Birth Rate per 1000 civilian population				...	0.28
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales				...	0.5

Deaths

			Males	Females	Total
All causes	...	...	25	28	53
Death Rate per 1000 civilian population				...	15.1
Death Rate for England and Wales	...			...	12.0
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth :					
From Sepsis	...		...	...	—
From other causes				...	1
				—	—
			Total	...	1

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	2	—	2
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1
			—	—	—
			3	—	3
Rate for all infants per 1000 live births				...	46
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	41

Deaths from :

Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	—
Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	13

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics.

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...		25	28
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
3.	Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	1	...
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M)	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	...	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	...	3
16.	Cancer of all other Sites...	...	...	...	...	6	3
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	2	2
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	9	10
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	1
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2
22.	Pneumonia.....	...	...	...	...	3	1
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26.	Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27.	Other Digestive Diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	...
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	1
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...
32.	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	2	3

STATISTICAL TABLE 1939-1947

	Death Rate		Birth Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	
Year	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales
1939	12.0	12.1	19.4	15.0	0.0	50
1940	10.5	14.3	10.5	14.6	52.6	55
1941	15.3	12.9	14.8	14.2	33.3	59
1942	8.2	11.6	17.1	15.8	0.0	49
1943	12.9	12.1	19.2	16.5	73.5	49
1944	18.1	11.6	24.2	17.6	45.4	46
1945	12.8	11.4	18.5	16.1	30.7	46
1946	13.2	11.5	19.6	19.1	44.1	43
1947	15.1	12.0	18.6	20.5	46.0	41

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Services

Medical Officer of Health—
C. A. Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor—
R. W. Settle, A.I.A.S., F.F.S. (Eng.), M.R.S.I.

Laboratory Facilities

The arrangements whereby Medical Practitioners could obtain bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, fæces and cerebro-spinal fluid, at the Bedford County Hospital laboratory were continued.

During the year also full advantage was taken of the facilities offered by the Medical Research Council through the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge during the period when there were cases of paratyphoid fever in the area and the surrounding district.

Ambulance Facilities

(a) Infectious Diseases.

Stationed at the Isolation Hospital, Biggleswade, an ambulance was available for the removal of cases to hospital, and an ambulance at Mogerhanger Sanatorium was used for persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

(b) Non-Infectious Diseases and Accidents.

The County Council are the responsible authority, with a depot at Crab Lane, Biggleswade (Telephone 2295), where three ambulances and two cars were available for the transport of patients to and from hospital, providing a 24 hourly service.

Nursing

(a) One Nurse Midwife is available for Maternity, Minor Medical and Surgical cases.

(b) The Isolation Hospital at Biggleswade which undertook the treatment of cases of infectious disease had to close down during the year owing to acute shortage of nursing staff. Arrangements were made for cases to be admitted to other hospitals within and without the County.

Clinics and Treatment Centres under the County Council

Child Welfare

Church Room, Sandy—Every alternate Thursday afternoon.

Venereal Diseases

Bedford County Hospital. The days and times of attendance are :—

Males	Monday to Friday	4—8 p.m.
Females	Monday and Tuesday	6 p.m.
	Wednesday	5—7 p.m.
	Thursday	5 p.m.
	Friday	3—5 p.m.

Tuberculosis

A Clinic was held at St. Andrew's Rooms, Biggleswade, each Wednesday until November, 1947. On November 27th a Chest Clinic was opened at St. Peter's Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, where a complete specialist service, including X Ray examination, is now available. The days and times of attendance are :—

Monday	10.00 a.m. to 12 00 noon.	Contacts (both sexes)
Monday	2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Pneumothorax refills
Tuesday	9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.	Women & Children
Thursday	9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.	Men
Friday	10.0 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.	Pneumothorax refills

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Water is supplied to the area by the Biggleswade Water Board and has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples have been taken periodically during the year and the results have shown that the supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

The following report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of a sample sent for examination on 19th February, 1947, is typical.

Chemical Examination in parts per Million

Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction pH.	Neutral	...	...	...	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	17
Electric Conductivity at 20 degs. C.	...	...	...	...	525
Total Solids dried at 180 degs. C.	...	...	...	...	350
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	19
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	235
Hardness. Total	...	...	...	...	285
Temporary	...	...	...	...	235
Permanent	...	...	...	...	50
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.00
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	Less than	...	0.01
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.014
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.000
Metals	...	...	...	Iron	0.03
Free Chlorine Reaction	...	...	...	...	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 degs. C.	...	...	...	...	0.10

Bacteriological Examination

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in

1 day at 37 degs. C.	...	...	...	0
2 days at 37 degs. C.	...	...	...	0
3 days at 20 degs. C.	...	...	...	3
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	...	absent from 100 ml.	...	
Bact. coli	...	absent from 100 ml.	...	
Cl. welchii Reaction	...	absent from 100 ml.	...	

The water was considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

Rainfall

Month	Total	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours Inches	Date	No. of days with .01 or over	No. of days with .04 or over
January.....	1.17	.27	8	13	10
February ...	.81	.15	7	12	8
March	3.71	.66	29	21	18
April	1.29	.17	3	13	12
May .....	.73	.17	2	12	8
June	1.4	.54	27	12	9
July	1.54	.47	16	10	8
August .....	.05	.05	5	1	1
September	1.01	.31	20	9	7
October ...	.23	.13	8	5	2
November	1.27	.24	9	14	12
December...	2.18	.5	25	18	11
	15.39				

Average Rainfall for Sandy for 10 years ... 18.936

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Part 1

1. Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	24	...	...
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	14	...	...
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	44	38	...	...

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness
Overcrowding
Unreasonable temperature
Inadequate ventilation
Ineffective drainage of floors
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) insufficient
(b) Unsuitable or defective
(c) Not separate for sexes
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)...
TOTAL

Part VIII

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel } Making	1	...	...	...	...	...

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

(a) General Statistics

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1947

Disease				Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths registered
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	9	8	...
Puerperal Pyrexia...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1	1	1
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	..
Measles	...	...	...	41	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	...	...
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	...	...

(b) Individual Diseases

Paratyphoid Fever

Nine cases of paratyphoid fever in persons normally resident in the district were notified. The first case was notified on the 16th August, and the last at the end of September. This outbreak of paratyphoid fever was concurrent with a similar outbreak of the disease in the surrounding districts. In the table of analysis of the cases of infectious diseases, the age and sex distribution is set out and it will be observed that in the 9 cases notified, 8 occurred in females.

The disease in the great majority of cases was extremely mild, the chief symptoms being malaise, headache, abdominal pain and diarrhoea, and the patients, after the first two or three days, felt reasonably well. In the last case however, the attack was very severe and the patient was extremely ill. Fortunately there were no deaths.

A very full investigation was undertaken as to the cause of the outbreak, and, while it is possible that some of the first cases may have been infected through food, this could not have happened in the remainder of the cases, whose food supply was from entirely different sources and whose contact with any known cases could not be established. It is probable that owing to the comparatively mild nature of the disease, there were cases in the community, whose symptoms were so slight that they did not seek medical advice, and who may have been, unknown to themselves, sources of infection.

The help given by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge in the examination of specimens of blood, stools and urine and of water samples is gratefully acknowledged. The total number of specimens reported on was 51.

Poliomyelitis

One case of poliomyelitis occurred in a child of two years. The case was of a very severe type and the child died in hospital.

Measles

The number of cases of measles notified was 41.

Whooping Cough

Only one case of whooping cough was notified but it is possible that other cases occurred in the district who were not attended by a doctor and were therefore not notified. This probably also is true in the number of cases of measles.

Erysipelas

One case was notified.

Scabies Order, 1941

The provision for treatment of cases of Scabies at Bedford was continued, 4 cases receiving treatment. On the 31st December, 1947, Regulation 33A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939 expired, and the Scabies Order, 1941 made under that Regulation ceased to be operative. The Council however, still have statutory powers under the Public Health Acts for dealing with verminous conditions.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Numbers of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947								
Age at 31.12.47, i.e. born in year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-1942	10 to 14 1933-1937	Total under 15
Number Immunised	...	28	37	25	13	68	191	362
Estimated mid-year population 1947	290					460		

II. Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation

Age at date of notification	Number of cases notified	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of Immunisa'n	Age at date of Death	Number of Deaths	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of Immunisa'n
Under 1	Under 1	.....	.....
1	1	.....	.....
2	2	.....	.....
3	3	.....	.....
4	4	.....	.....
5 to 9	5 to 9	.....	.....
10 to 14	10 to 14	.....	.....
Totals	Totals	.....	.....

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases, and the number of deaths in their age groups.

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0
1
5
10
15
20	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25
35
45
55
65 and upwards
Totals	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1947

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions and other work carried out during the year.

1. Drainage and Sewerage

The Town is seweraged along the Main Streets. The sewer runs from the Station Bridge along High Street, down the St. Neots Road as far as the New Inn. Another sewer runs from Brickhill Road, along Cambridge Road, Northcroft, Bedford Road, and the Great North Road. These sewers meet and the sewage is taken to the Works where it is treated.

The two Mirrless Watson engines and pumps have given an excellent performance during their first year, and the attention needed is negligible. The electrodes fitted have given a certain amount of trouble owing to the fact that the three electrodes are housed in one three inch pipe; the holders inserted in the pipe to keep the electrodes apart act as platforms for the accumulation of sludge owing to the fact that the pipe is too small. Washing and flushing will not remove these accumulations. It is now recommended that three electrodes be inserted separately. An order has been given for the work to proceed.

The following is the report of the Analysis of the Sewage Effluent as made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Chemical analysis of a sample of Sewage Effluent received on 26th September, 1947, from Sandy Urban District Council, labelled Sewage Works Effluent.

Dated 25/9/47—11 a.m.

Taken by W. Millar.

Witness—Reg. W. Settle.

(Signed) Reg. W. Settle.

RESULTS EXPRESSED IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance	.....	.....	Opalescence with a flocculent deposit of light brown humus.
Colour	.....	.....	Yellow Brown.
Odour	.....	.....	Earthy.
Suspended Matter—Total	.....	.....	3.2
Suspended Matter—			
Volatile on Ignition	.....	.....	2.7
Chlorine in Chlorides	.....	.....	8.8
Nitrogen in Nitrates	.....	.....	1.7
Nitrogen in Nitrites App.	.....	.....	0.05
Free Ammonia	.....	.....	2.0=Ammoniacal Nitrogen 1.7
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	.....	0.14=Albuminoid Nitrogen 0.12

Oxygen Absorbed, 4 hrs. at 80°F	1.32
" " 3 mins. at 80°F	—
Impurity Figure	13.6
Strength, Royal Commission	—
Biological Oxygen Demand	5 days @ 18.3°C 1.6

This sample contains no excess of suspended matter or organic matter, shows evidence of nitrification and has moderate Biological Oxygen Demand. It fails to comply with the General Standard recommended by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal with respect to suspended matter but the figure of 3.0 parts per 100,000 is only just exceeded, while it complies with regard to Biological Oxygen Demand. The effluent is therefore considered satisfactory.

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

2. Rivers and Streams

The Ivel Internal Drainage Board undertake the cleaning of all streams. The Council during the year trimmed over two miles of ditches.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation

There are 938 houses on the water carriage system, 146 pails and 7 privy middens. Included in these figures are 160 houses with cesspools.

(ii) (a) Public Cleansing

The collection of household refuse and contents of pails is being carried out by direct labour. The work generally is satisfactory. The emptying of cesspools is by the Contractors, as many of the wells require long lengths of suction piping.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :—

Total number of visits made	.....	.....	55,215
Ashbins emptied	.....	.....	48,281
Privies emptied	.....	.....	1
Cesspools emptied.....	.....	.....	18
Pail Closets emptied	.....	.....	16,933
Loads of Refuse and Night Soil removed	.....	.....	577

(b) Salvage and Kitchen Waste

The sale of Salvage and Kitchen Waste during the year realised £269 2s. 3d. and the collection is now undertaken by the Scavengers with trailer attached to the Refuse Freighter. There is no outside help given now, in so far as voluntary collections are concerned.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Notices Served

23 Intimation Notices or Letters were sent dealing with 39 premises. 13 Statutory Notices were served, most of the other defects being remedied by verbal notice.

The following list gives the particulars of the defects remedied or work carried out after the attention of the owner or occupier has been called to the same :—

Dwelling Houses

Roofs and Chimneys repaired	.....	.....	—
Guttering and Fall Pipes repaired or renewed	.....	.....	2
Floors repaired	.....	.....	—
Dampness remedied	.....	.....	—
Windows repaired or made to open	.....	.....	—
Improved Lighting	.....	.....	—
Fire Grates repaired or renewed	.....	.....	—
Walls and Ceilings repaired	.....	.....	—
Coppers repaired	.....	.....	—
Water Pipes and Fittings repaired	.....	.....	12
Yards re-paved	.....	.....	—
Doors and Frames repaired	.....	.....	—

Drains

Inspection Chambers and Covers provided	.....	.....	—
Drains unstopped or repaired	.....	.....	5
Trapped Gullies provided	.....	.....	—
Cesspools repaired and new C.P's.	.....	.....	—
New lengths drains passed	.....	.....	—

Closet Accommodation and Ash Receptacles

New Ashbins provided	.....	.....	3
Sanitary Conveniences provided	.....	.....	—
Flushing Cisterns provided or repaired	.....	.....	9
New E.C. Pails provided.....	.....	.....	—
New W.C. Pans provided.....	.....	.....	5
Insanitary Privies abolished	.....	.....	—

Cowsheds and Dairies

Dairies and Cowsheds built	.....	.....	—
Dairies and Cowsheds cleansed and whitewashed	.....	.....	—
Cowshed Floors repaired.....	.....	.....	—
Improved Water Supply	.....	.....	—
Other contraventions of the Milk and Dairies	.....	.....	—
Order remedied	.....	.....	—

Miscellaneous

Accumulation of Refuse removed, etc.	.....	.....	1
Slaughter-houses cleansed and limewashed	.....	.....	—
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	.....	.....	—

The following is a summary of the various defects, etc., which have been dealt with in connection with the Council's houses :—

Sink wastes renewed	5
New coppers supplied and fixed	5
New dustbins provided	25
New E.C. pails provided	6
New W.C. cistern provided and fixed	2
Gas Cookers repaired	—
Porches	1
Firebricks for coppers and ranges	(sets) 51
New D.P.C. to walls and dampness	—
Gulley repairs.....	11
Door furniture repaired or renewed	24
Gates re-hung, adjusted or repaired	6
Doors eased or repaired	41
Fences repaired	—
New W.C. pedestals	5
Chimney pots fixed	5
Concrete pavements repaired or relaid	4
Stack repaired	1
Internal decoration and white liming	2
Floors re-laid or repaired.....	7
Drains unstopped	6
Stair Rail	3
W.C. overflows adjusted and cisterns repaired	3
Water Pipes repaired	—
Sink and bath wastes repaired and unblocked	7
Eaves, gutters and fall pipes cleaned and repaired	30
Internal plastering	4
Woodwork repaired	—
Roofs, ridges, etc., repaired	29
Repairs to draining boards, flap tables, etc.	11
Electrical defects repaired	8
Windows repaired	38
Tap washers renewed	15
Soft water tanks repaired.....	5
New taps provided	8
New W.C. seats and repairs	15
Coppers repaired	57
Ranges and registers repaired	38
New ranges	4
New registers.....	11
Ceilings repaired and renewed	5
External painting	77
Repairing steps	2
Repairs to sinks	2
Door and window heads repaired	—
W.C. pedestals repaired	3
Drains repaired	12

Restriction of Ribbon Development

Proper and suitable arrangements have been made with the Beds. County Surveyor for the carrying out of the necessary requirements of the above Act.

New Buildings

A site for 56 permanent houses and 7 bungalows has been compulsorily acquired and building is proceeding.

A scheme for 12 Airey Houses (Rural Type) was commenced during the year.

During the year 35 plans were deposited and approved.

Goat Shed	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	Approved
Piggeries	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	"
Stores	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	"
Dwelling Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	"
Garages (Private)	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	"
Offices	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	"
Perm. Prefabs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	"
Seed Sheds	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	"
Sheds	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	"
Sculleries	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	"
Outbuildings	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	"
Cattle Shed	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	"
Extensions to premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	"
Alterations to premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	"
Sanitary Conveniences	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	"

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply

7 Persons are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1925. Four are cowkeepers and three are purveyors only.

22 Visits have been paid to the 4 cowsheds in the area, generally during milking time and to the dairies.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

There is no public slaughter-house in the district, but some slaughtering is done in emergency on behalf of the Ministry of Food.

The following items have been condemned as unfit for food :

Corned Beef and Tinned Meat	.....	.....	9 lbs.
Tinned Salmon	.....	.....	1 "
Kippers	.....	.....	42 "
Shrimps	.....	.....	28 "
Cheese	.....	.....	6 "
Tinned Fruit	.....	.....	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Tinned Milk	.....	.....	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their consideration and support extended to me during the year, and to Mr. Usher, Clerk of the Council, and to Mr. Hanford, Finance Officer, and the Staff for their kind help, assistance and loyal co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

REG. W. SETTLE, A.I.A.S. F.F.S. (ENG.), M.R.S.I.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Surveyor's Office,

St. Neots Road, Sandy.

October, 1947.

